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A Community  
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Peterborough

# Opening Doors



## VOTING. EVERY DAY IT MATTERS.

Being a voter is about more than dropping a ballot every few years. It's about the things you care about, on election day and every day. In our own communities and across the province. - *Elections Ontario*

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*Community Living Peterborough shares with you the following article, which appeared in the Toronto Star on Saturday, April 2, 2011. In light of the upcoming election, we urge you to reflect on its message prior to casting your vote.*

## Why funding inclusion is money well spent

Helen, Henderson, Toronto Star, Saturday April 2nd, 2011

If our right to know is at the heart of this \$300-million federal election, let's make sure we're asking the right questions on the way to the ballot box.

The motion of contempt that felled Canada's 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament centred on the right of the bill payers – that would be you and me – to know how much we would pay for fighter jets, crime bills and corporate tax cuts.

Here are a few other costs worth thinking about as the campaign picks up steam:

- The cost of not having a strong, cohesive national accessibility act to speed provincial and municipal efforts to level the playing field for Canadians with disabilities.
- The cost of abandoning leadership that ensures everyone is include and can contribute their efforts to building strong, viable communities.

We live in a country that has, on paper, an enviable charter of rights and freedoms. It promises us all – and that includes people with disabilities – the right to freedom from discrimination in every aspect of life, from the classroom to the workplace.

We live in a country that backs the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([un.org/disabilities](http://un.org/disabilities)). It underscores the fact that people who move or communicate or process information differently from the majority are active and valued members of society. As such, they are entitled to inclusive schools, job markets, affordable housing and transportation systems.

We also live in a country whose federal government has spent years, not to mention millions of dollars, fighting a request to make its websites accessible to those who are blind so they can apply for jobs or passports the same way as the sighted majority.

Donna Jodhan made the request, backed by expert opinions that the technology is easily available and affordable.

Ottawa fought right up to the Supreme Court.

See "Funding Inclusion" on page 4

## Kate makes a difference on a global level

Blueboxing Volunteer, Kate Eastabrook took a break from her usual role at Fleming College recently, and chose to spend the afternoon canvassing for The Canadian Red Cross for the Japan Earthquake/Asia-Pacific Tsunami Relief.

Katie (left) along with her support staff Lynda (right) spent a few hours of their volunteer time collecting donations and giving information. They managed to collect over \$50.00 in a very short amount of time. What a great use of time for such a good cause!

Canadians wishing to help support relief efforts underway are encouraged to contribute by: Donating online at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or calling 1-800-418-1111.◇



Blueboxing @ Fleming is a group of volunteers from Community Living Peterborough who help staff, students and visitors to the college better understand how to reduce waste and divert it from landfill.

Blueboxing works in partnership with Fleming College and Trent University.

## In memory of Katelyn Ferguson March 15, 1991 ~ February 16, 2011



We lost a beautiful young woman on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Katelyn, along with her Dad, Steven, had been supported by Family Support for a number of years. Although significantly medically involved, Katelyn was known for her spunk and sense of humour. She was your typical teenager and loved everything that a young teen would enjoy – especially music. Through the years, Katie had been supported by Barb Hiland, Sandra Scott, Alison Rodriguez and, most recently, Shawna Belcourt.

Lately, though, great strides had been made and her Dad “let go” of the protective and loving shelter he had provided for Katie all of these years. Shawna enabled Katie to realize some dreams and outcomes including going to The Sound Of Music, going to Camp Kawar-

tha and reconnecting with her High School friends (Katie had difficulty attending school due to her weak immune system), Hot Tubbing at the Wellness Centre (she loved the whirlpool), going to Wonderland and attending a concert this past summer.

She had seen the model of “community home living” at the Woollen Mill and told her Dad that she wanted to live in an apartment like those at Woollen Mill. She was always thinking of her dad and not wanting him to worry so much as she lived her life, and her confidence grew so much with her independence. Katie should be remembered as a young woman who lived her life with great courage, humour, and determination.

Her Amigo Shannon wrote this about her friendship with Katelyn “**My experience with my amigo has significantly influenced my life. She has a radiant and memorable personality. Whenever I leave Katie, I can still hear her laugh.**”

She was a fighter and didn’t give up easily. She will be missed by her family, of course, all the nurses at pediatrics and also by the staff who knew her at Community Living Peterborough. She touched us all and we will miss her. Steve Ferguson remembered Community Living Peterborough and asked that donations, in her name, be given to the organization so other kids could live their dreams.◇

## Long lasting friendship Tara Robson

In 2001, I met Bill McKendry at the Transitional Training Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. It was there that our friendship began. TTC is a school for individuals who are blind and that provides accommodation for students who live out of town. Bill and I lived at the centre and

hung out together during weekends. Upon completion of our training at TTC, Bill moved back to Toronto and I to Peterborough.

We had an opportunity to reunite at a summer camp called, “Camp Joe” in Parry Sound. We kept in touch over the telephone and continue to do so. We also take turns visiting one another.

See “Lasting Friendship” page 4

## Community Living - Who We Are & What We Stand For

The Community Living Movement in Ontario was formed in the 1950's by families and their allies who were fighting for the right of their children and friends who have an intellectual disability to attend school. Since then, our numbers and focus have increased considerably. Today, Community Living Ontario's membership exceeds 12,000 people, within a federation of more than 115 local Associations. We collectively work to support children as well as adults. Our focus has moved well beyond education and embraces all aspects of community life. Community Living Associations in Ontario are members of Community Living Ontario which, along with its counterparts in other provinces and territories form the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL). We are all part of a world-wide advocacy network called Inclusion International.

People with disabilities want to live amidst everyone else in our communities, participate fully in all community activities, and contribute to the well being of our society. We are dedicated to supporting people with intellectual disabilities to realize these aspirations.

As an organization, our position is clear **It is better for people and our communities, as well as ultimately healthier for us as a society:**

- When people live in communities rather than institutional settings,
- When people are employed and able

### PICKETING OF PEOPLE'S HOMES Did You Know:

- Picketing of homes causes people to experience fear, disorientation, shame, isolation and is a violation of personal privacy. It damages neighbour relations.
- A private members Bill (Bill 83) aimed at ending picketing, was presented in the legislature in 2010 by MPP Sylvia Jones.

to provide for some of their own needs,

- When children are educated in regular classes rather than duplicate, segregated classes,
- When young people are prepared for lives as participating and contributing members of society,
- When families and friends are able to participate in the supports of people they care about rather than relying exclusively on government funded supports.

We believe that we have a collective responsibility to **support** people who have an intellectual disability, their families and communities. Each of us acts on this responsibility as individuals, as members of community associations, and as taxpayers. We also look to our government to extend our collective ability to act. Government is involved, not instead of us, but as part of us.

At this point in our history, we are critically concerned that current trends will frustrate the efforts of our membership, communities and government to stand beside our friends and family members. We fear that unless decisive action is taken, harm will not only continue to be done but increase. ◇

### PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

#### Did You Know:

- Prior to 2004, ODSP benefits had not increased for 11 years.
- Under the current government, ODSP rates have increased each year by approximately the cost of living.
- Despite the increases since 2004, ODSP benefits remain more than 18% below what they were in 1993 when compared to inflation.



Jack Gillan

### Our Mission

To inspire respect and equality for people with an intellectual disability by promoting: community knowledge, organizational excellence and individual quality of life.

### Our Vision

That all people live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in their community and have the opportunity to participate effectively.

### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- [inclusion-international.org](http://inclusion-international.org)
- [cacl.ca](http://cacl.ca)
- [communitylivingontario.ca](http://communitylivingontario.ca)

### NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

#### Did You Know:

- Waiting Lists for Ontario residential supports have risen to 12,000 people in a sector that currently provides residential support to 16,000 people.
- In a random sampling of ridings across Ontario, over 1,450 parents over the aged of 70 are still providing primary care to their adult son or daughter.
  - ⇒ 3% of parents are over the age of 90
  - ⇒ 17% of parents are over 80, and
  - ⇒ 80% of parents are over 70

### ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

#### Did You Know:

- Regulations under the Education Act require schools to provide placement in a regular classroom as the first option where it is the choice of the parent.
- Despite this, parents are frequently convinced to choose a segregated placement for their son or daughter based on the school's failure to commit to appropriate support.

# Funding inclusion

Continued from front

In November, the court ruled in Jodhan's favour, ordering the Feds to make all their websites accessible within the next 15 months. The Government has appealed the decision.

If we continue to support a system that reinforces barriers rather than dismantles them, we are short-changing ourselves, depleting our social capital and squandering the rich and diverse talents of people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Instead of a strong, cohesive national accessibility act, we have years of federal downloading and a divestment of leadership and resources that continues to breed exclusion. A national housing policy could help those who too often must choose between nutritious food and rent.

Poor nutrition contributes to physical and emotional stress, cutting people off from communities.

Families that include someone with a disability are among the most at risk. Caring for loved ones at home adds up to millions in unpaid labour. But they get no thanks from Ottawa.

Instead, as social policy expert Michael J. Prince notes, their needs, like those of others with disabilities, are relegated to the farthest margins when it comes to substantive inclusion.

I've talked before about Prince and his latest book, *Absent Citizens: Disability Politics and Policy in Canada* (University of Toronto Press).

He believes Canada needs to "mainstream disability into public policy and administration."

He believes we need to build national statistics, an "inclusion index" and budget statements that commit to ↴

improving lives for disabled people. There are almost five million Canadians with disabilities. The cost of not addressing their needs is certainly as worthy of attention as the cost of fighter jets. ◇

Helen Henderson is a freelance writer and disability studies student at Ryerson University. Her column appears every other Saturday.

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## VOTE COMPASS

A free online application that provides users with a sense of how their opinions square with the platforms of the political parties running in the 2011 Canadian



federal election. Find out whose views are most like yours: look for this icon at [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)

# Lasting friendship

Continued from page 2

During one of Bill's visits to Peterborough, he attended one of my planning meetings. We also enjoy going out for dinner, trying different coffee shops, listening to music and visiting my family in Bobcaygeon.

The last time we saw one another was March 12, 2011. I traveled to Scarborough to see Bill. We went for dinner at Milestones and did some shopping at Scarborough Town Centre. ◇



I value Bill's friendship and look forward to it continuing for many years to come.



## May is Community Living Month

### Building Inclusive Communities

**Together Since 1953...**

Community Living Peterborough works with the City & County of Peterborough to support people living with an intellectual disability to contribute and fully participate in society.

Go to our events page on our website for a listing of events & forums for the month! [communitylivingpeterborough.ca](http://communitylivingpeterborough.ca)



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Find us on Facebook [www.communitylivingpeterborough.ca](http://www.communitylivingpeterborough.ca)



Community Living Peterborough invites you to consider giving to the Agency's Legacy Foundation. The Legacy Foundation has several funds to which you can donate. The funds benefit both the community, and people supported by Community Living Peterborough. Give today, and make a difference in the lives of people living with an intellectual disability. For more information go to our website: [communitylivingpeterborough.ca/make-a-difference](http://communitylivingpeterborough.ca/make-a-difference). Or call us at 705-743-2411 Thank You.

